
-----Original Message-----

From: gsweetser@maineapple.com [mailto:gsweetser@maineapple.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2008 4:48 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Comments regarding rule changes

TO: Maine Board of Pesticides Control

FROM: Sweetser's Apple Barrel & Orchards

Blanchard Road, Cumberland Center, Maine

SUBJECT: Comments regarding proposed rules changes.

The Sweetser Farm looks forward to celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2012. I am confident that my 82 year old father Richard, and his 78 year old wife, Connie will be there to mark this milestone of our family farm. Their continued participation in the day to day operation has helped them maintain their active lifestyles. Our farm has transformed from a rural operation, to becoming the primary provider of "open space" in Cumberland Center.

I am concerned, however, that as our society evolves, my ability to utilize the tools necessary to maintain a farm become more and more restricted to the point that we cannot sustain our operation. Specifically I speak to the proposed rule changes in Chapter 22 Section 4, B, II, (i). The intent of the wording is that if any pesticide residue is detected on adjacent property, than action may be initiated against the grower. I interpret this as a "Zero Tolerance". I can imagine that as monitoring equipment becomes more sophisticated, the residue that may be detected in the future will be in far lower concentrations than might be detected today. The unforeseen consequence of this rule could be the total elimination of pesticide application upon the land. I personally feel that our ability to maintain this beautiful orchard and farming operation will become more difficult and could be totally eliminated with the proposed changes.

As you deliberate, I simply ask that you keep my orchard in mind. We began farming in 1812. All of our neighbors moved into their homes by their choice. Our farm is one of the few registered farms in Maine which gives legal notification that as a farm, we engage in activities, at all hours of the day, to maintain our crops. This registration even places a restriction in their deed that they cannot build a structure within 100 feet of the property line. There have certainly been given full notice that they are living next to an active farm. We enjoy strong relationships with the neighbors, but no one can predict those neighbors feelings in the future.

We are extremely sensitive to safe application of any substance to our property. Six generations of children have grown up on the farm and believe me, we have not, and will not tolerate unnecessary risk to ourselves, our children, and their children.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Gregory Sweetser, Owner

12/5/2008

[Timothy Crabtree, Union, Maine]

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,



DEAR HENRY:

⑦ HAVING WORKED IN FIELDS SINCE 1958, I feel somewhat qualified in saying I know a little about farming. If you need me for any suggestions or input, I would be flattered. Also, I would be interested in serving on the board if an opening became available!

Tim 785-3616
Cell - 601-0698

① WE NEED TO DEVISE A BETTER, MORE ACCURATE METHOD OF NOTIFYING ADJUTING NEIGHBORS OF SPRAY TIMES. 24 hrs. is too vague... BUT ONLY THOSE REQUESTING IT.

② WHAT ABOUT FAMILIES WHO ONLY OWN A HOUSE AND 1 ACRE? (APPROX. 200 X 200). DOES THAT MEAN THEY CAN'T SPRAY FOR ANTS, OR GARDEN PESTS, OR WASH THEIR VEHICLES? If they can, then this proposal reeks of discrimination.

③ ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE PAST TWO DECADES OF classes from DR. YARBROUGH HAVE BEEN IN VAIN? HERE WE ARE, TAKING SEMINARS, BEING LICENSED, KEEPING RECORDS, etc. and in my case, still hand spraying 4 fields to ease my neighbor's concerns (and glad to do it). We are doing everything asked of us.

④ Did something happen to start this? ⑤ We are in tough times - this will hurt APPLES, CORN, SQUASH, CHRISTMAS TREES, POTATOES, STRAWBERRIES, etc. as well as blueberries. ⑥ THIS COULD TURN AROUND ON THE STATE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE ARE BEING REGULATED BASED ON EMOTION + FALSE PERCEPTION, vs. SOUND SCIENCE, I SEE MAJOR LITIGATION IN THE FUTURE.

⑧ ALSO, BEING REQUIRED TO NOTIFY "everybody" could have a reverse effect. "Oh no, my neighbor-farmer keeps telling me what's going to happen. It must be bad. I'd better call the B of P. Control and complain." THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF.

Jo Ann Myers
Beau Chemin Preservation
Farm
1749 Finntown Road
Waldoboro, Maine 04572

December 5, 2008

Henry Jennings, Director
Dr. Eckert, Chairperson
Members, Board of Pesticide Control

Board of Pesticide Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04330-0028

Dear Dr. Eckert, members of the Board of Pesticides Control, Mr. Jennings:

Thank you for extending the deadline for public comment on the proposed amendments to state pesticide rule numbers 10, 22 and 28.

My husband and I own a diversified, family farm in Waldoboro, Maine. Some but not all of our farm activities are certified organic. Adjacent to our farm, specifically our certified organic hayfield and certified organic fruits and vegetables, is a conventional farm which produces feed corn some years and cabbage other years. Blueberry fields exist some distance from our farm. We have experienced some drift from ground spraying of the conventional field adjacent to our farm. The drift did not affect our crop areas but did affect a small amount of livestock forage which we could not feed out due to concerns about contamination from the ground spraying drift.

When we began our farm over 10 years ago, we deliberately planned organic growing areas which included a buffer zone all on our farmland. We realized that we had no legal or regulatory protection over run-off or drift. In my mind, this is not an equitable situation - the burden of protection should not fall on us.

I have several comments on your proposed rules.

The Sensitive Areas Likely to be Occupied is an important part of the proposed rules because that provision at least offers notification to those who could be affected by spray drift. In Chapter 22, D., I urge you to extend the Buffer Zone to 700 feet. I think a broader buffer, with the clear proviso that exemptions may be granted on a multiyear basis where field layout, topography or other obvious practical issues make a 700 foot buffer zone impossible, would provide assured protection where feasible and provide the farmer with a practical route for exemption otherwise. While a 200 foot buffer is better than none, it doesn't accomplish much by way of protection. In the conventional field adjacent to us, the field growing width is about 1,000 feet. Clearly, a 700 foot buffer would be impractical and while I'd just as soon the farmer not use toxic chemicals on his field, I could hardly object to an exemption in his case.

Section 4. B. Standards for Unconsented, Off-Target Drift does provide protection for organic farms but it would make more sense to me to classify organic farms as Sensitive Areas Likely to be Occupied.

I was disappointed that the final draft apparently deleted, Section 4. B. Contents, two important provisions. One was VII. "The use of the lowest effective rates of application of pesticides". This seems such an important provision and would go a long way toward emphasis on lower risk pesticides. The second was VIII. "The use of integrated pest management techniques, including planting of pest resistant varieties, removal of pest host plants, long-range planning to rotate crops and monitor fields and other measures designed to minimize the use of pesticides over the planting season and/or over several planting seasons. This seems such an important provision and would help transition Maine toward less toxic methods of farming.

I am also disappointed the proposed amendments do not address ground spraying.

In sum, the BPC has made good progress and I realize the push back to the changes you are proposing is significant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Myers



-----Original Message-----

From: Trout [mailto:pegtrout2001@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, December 05, 2008 10:31 AM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Additional Public comment on Pesticide changes.

Dear Mr. Jennings:

Please do include my original mail which included questions regarding the specific changes to the existing regulations in any material you present to the Board.

I write again, now understanding that, in Maine, there is no state-wide pesticide use and standards protocol, and must plea that one be created and instituted as soon as possible. There must be a "Why, Where, and When" procedure, and an application process for a defined "moderate to large-scale" application of pesticides.

As you know, I am not against their use, whether they be so-called, "organic" - what isn't, or not, but the risks are proven. Materials Safety Data Sheets are there for a reason. There must be governance.

Sincerely,
Maggie Trout

12/5/2008

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Yarborough [mailto:davidy@maine.edu]
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2008 2:08 PM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: written comments on rule changes attached

Dear Henry:

I have attached a letter with my written comments on the proposed rule changes.

Please let me know you have received it ok and have included it in with the comments.

Thank you.

Dave Yarborough

Blueberry Specialist
Professor of Horticulture
the University of Maine
5722 Deering Hall Rm. 414
Orono, ME 04469-5722

Phone: 207-581-2923
TollFree: 800-897-0757 x 1
Fax: 207-581-2941
EMail Davidy@Maine.edu
www.wildblueberries.maine.edu

"Le sens commun n'est pas si commun" **Voltaire**



December 5, 2008

Dr. Carol Eckert
Board of Pesticides Control
State House Station 28
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Carol:

I was not able to attend the public hearing because of a previous commitment to speak at a wild blueberry producers meeting in Canada. I would like to address a number of proposed rule changes that I believe to be unreasonable and not in the interest of wild blueberry growers or to the general public.

In chapter 22 in the standards of harm section indicates a violation of the rules if any residue is detected. Given the analytical ability to measure in parts per trillion, this would mean that detection would be a violation with out any demonstrated harm. The EPA requires companies to spend millions of dollars and years of testing to demonstrate the safety of their products before they are registered. The MCL or HAL levels developed by EPA provide a measure of safety and should be used, not a detectable level that has no basis to cause harm.

Increasing the buffer area to 200 feet from sensitive areas likely to be occupied is also an arbitrary measure. The current 100 foot setback from residential buildings has worked well based on the small number of violations relative to the number of applications over the years. There is always going to be a small but vocal minority that objects to any pesticide application and will continue to press for further setbacks and restrictions. This is an arbitrary increase in the setback to appease this vocal minority and is not based on any science.

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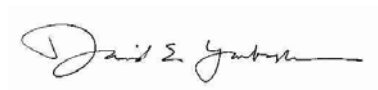
The provision in chapter 10 to include public roads in the designation of sensitive areas will result in undue restrictions on many fields that are in proximity to roads and make it much more difficult for small growers or processors who are managing the land. We have been very successful in reducing pesticide applications by using border sprays; this restriction would prevent the implementation of this IPM tool. Provisions such as requiring applicators to know school bus schedules, which can change or not be on time, are burdens that require more management time and does not guarantee there will not be exposure. If there are concerns about public exposure on roads then a provision should

be made to allow applicators to stop traffic, including school busses, to prevent this from happening. This provision would also certainly favor the replacement of blueberry fields with house lots along public roads.

The mandatory notification in chapter 28 is another administrative burden that is unnecessary. Those individuals who wish to be notified can request this from the grower and this system has worked well in the past. If there are applicators that do not comply with the existing regulations then focus should be on the staff requiring these individuals to comply with existing regulations and not create an additional burden for all of those who do comply. This provision would result in posting to prohibit access to the fields and the loss to the public of this recreational resource as has been done by companies on the blueberry barrens. [Establishing a pesticide notification registry for agricultural applications would be an alternative to insure those who wish to be notified have recognition.](#)

These restrictions amount to taking of wild blueberry grower's property without any demonstrated value other than to appease the perceptions of those clamoring for more restrictions. For the wild blueberry growers this is not about maximizing profits, it is about remaining competitive with cultivated blueberry growers and wild blueberry growers from Canada. The production of wild blueberries benefit not only the growers, but the open land benefits tourism and the production of this healthy fruit at a reasonable price to the consumer benefits all of us. The Board of Pesticides Control should be serving the public good not the perceptions of a vocal minority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Yarborough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

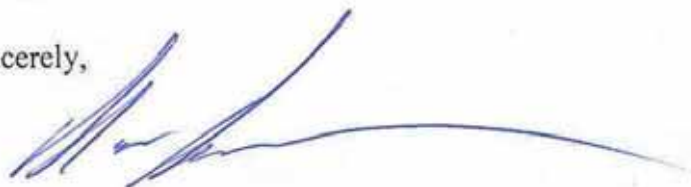
David E Yarborough, PhD
Blueberry Specialist
Professor of Horticulture
the University of Maine
5722 Deering Hall Rm. 414
Orono, ME 04469-5722

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jennifer or Dana Dolham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

[Jennifer or Dana Dolham, Brunswick, Maine]

-----Original Message-----

From: Marc & Cheryl Rogers [mailto:marccheryl.rogers@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, December 05, 2008 11:22 AM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: BPC rules on drift and aerial spraying

Dear Mr. Jennings:

We are writing this letter to give our opinion about the proposed amendments to the State rules regulating pesticide drift and aerial spraying.

We are directly impacted by these rules because we live next to a commercial blueberry grower. We feel that there is too much drift in aerial spraying. We think it would be in the interest of health and the environment to limit the application of pesticides to spraying by tractor or spraying by hand. We personally, do not put chemicals on the foods we eat. We respect the right for others to use chemicals on their foods if they wish, but their chemical application should not impact our property, our blueberries, or our organic garden. Also, if it has been proven that the chemicals that they apply get into the groundwater, then those chemicals should be completely banned.

We also feel that with tractor or hand spraying, the buffer zone should be increased to much greater than 200 feet. We feel it should be at least a quarter mile from the nearest house or school.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Marc & Cheryl Rogers
Rockport, ME

-----Original Message-----

From: Costas Christ [mailto:cosal@tamusafaris.com]

Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2008 4:03 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Cc: Heather Spalding; Russell Libby

Subject: Board of Pesticides Control

Dear Mr. Jennings,

We are the owners and managers of 25 acres of organic blueberry farm land on Cape Rosier, in Brooksville, Maine. We have farmed these fields since 1987, when we purchased the land from a Maine family, who preferred to sell it to us because they knew we were serious about keeping the blueberry farming tradition of this area going. That local Maine family of many generations - the Herricks - have continued to advise us for the last 21 years as we have transitioned our fields from non-organic to organic, which is not only a philosophy of farming that we maintain, but also represents a good market strategy to keep our blueberry farm viable as a family business.

We are writing to you now, to state our full and complete endorsement of the testimony delivered by Heather Spalding, Associate Director of MOFGA, before the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, on November 21, 2008, regarding Proposed Changes to Rules Governing Pesticide Drift and Aerial Spraying. Heather's testimony speaks for us, as rural blueberry farmers, who have worked hard to meet MOFGA and USDA Organic Certification for our crops. That certification is key to our viability as organic blueberry farmers in Maine. Indeed, our greatest fear and threat is not from pests that might invade our fields - we can deal with that through our own organic methods of growing - but rather, pesticide drift, which would cause us to lose organic certifications status and contaminate our crops with loss of market value, the real fear of every rural farmer. And pesticide drift is a serious threat to our own health, our farm environment, and to our children who work with us on the farm.

We do respect those farmers who have chosen to farm with use of herbicide and pesticides. But their decision to do so should not put at risk our own well-being and our decision to farm organically. There must be at least a quarter mile buffer zone established to prevent any pesticide drift, to protect organic farms like ours.

Thank you very much for taking into consideration our concerns in your deliberations on Proposed Changes to Rules Governing Pesticide Drift and for recognizing that Heather Spaulding's testimony before the Maine Board of Pesticide Control on November 21, 2008, speaks for us, as dedicated rural Maine farmers.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Sally and Costas Christ
Blue Sky Farm
P.O. Box 175
Brooksville, Maine 04617 USA
T: 207-326-9099
F: 207-326-9171
E: cosal@tamusafaris.com

12/8/2008

-----Original Message-----

From: Dean and Pat [mailto:dpdolham@roadrunner.com]

Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2008 5:40 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Comments on the Proposed Changes to the Pesticide Application Regulations

Henry Jennings, Director
Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330-0028
Telephone: 207-287-2731
FAX: 207-624-5035
E-Mail: henry.jennings@maine.gov

Dear Mr. Jennings,

We are blueberry growers in Warren Maine and have some concerns about the proposed changes in the regulations noted below. Of particular concern are the change in the definition of a "Sensitive Area" and the change to the setback distance; including public roadways as Sensitive Areas and extending the inclusion to 500 feet will result in a great many fields falling into the notification requirements including most of ours. Core to Our concern is who is going to be considered a legal occupant of a roadway or body of water. In the broadest sense everyone has access to the roadway as well as most bodies of water. In our case, there is a public landing on the pond. If everyone is considered a "Neighbor" then there exists the potential that a strongly committed advocate or group of advocates could request notifications from every field that is within 500 feet of a public roadway or body of water. There does not appear to be any limitations on who can request the notifications. Is it people living in the area, in the state or just anybody? This has the potential to bury growers and field managers in notification paperwork. If public areas as widely distributed as roadways and bodies of water are now going to be included by the 500 foot guidelines then we would like to see clarification on how such potentially widespread notifications should be handled and who can request the notifications. We also are the owners of the water frontage abutting the fields as well as being the owners of both sides of the roadways abutting most of our fields. We would like to know what process you may be utilizing for waivers to the recommended new notification ruling. We would also like to be clear about the potential negative financial consequences that would impact this family farm business. As providers to our local Blueberry processor there are times when spraying would be indicated; if we are not able to follow through with the spraying, selling our product to the processor would be prohibited. This would impact our ability to continue this business successfully that has been on our family for going on six generations. In this difficult economic time, it is our hope that you would not be including more obstacles for businesses to run successfully.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment,
Charles & Dorothy Dolham
Dean & Pat Dolham
Donna Dolham
Diane Possee
Dana Dolham
Seven Tree View Farm
Warren, Maine

12/8/2008

Chapter 10—Definitions and Terms proposed: amend the current rule to redefine Sensitive Area and create a new category, Sensitive Area Likely to Be Occupied, which includes public roads.

Chapter 22—Standards for Outdoor Application of Pesticides by Powered Equipment in Order to Minimize Off-Target Deposition proposed: amend the current rule to include a site map for all ground applications; to create a new section specific to aerial application with upgraded site planning requirements, including positive identification of the site, a site plan, and an application checklist; and to replace existing standards for off-target residues with a “Standard of Harm” approach.

Chapter 28—Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications proposed: amend the current rule to allow persons up to 500 feet from a ground application to request general information and/or notification about specific applications; to allow persons up to 1,500 feet from an aerial application to request general information and/or notification about specific applications; to require persons contracting for an aerial application within 1,000 feet of occupied areas to determine whether occupants desire prior notification; and to require posting of unmanaged public areas within 1,000 feet of aerial applications.

-----Original Message-----

From: Evan McDougal [mailto:evan.mcdougal@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 8:58 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Cc: 'McDougal Orchards'

Subject: New Drift Rules - Public Comments

Dear Henry,

I would like to make a couple of comments and recommendations to consider regarding the proposed new pesticide drift regulations. I am currently a licensed Master Applicator supervising the limited application of herbicides at the Sanford Regional Airport (owned by the municipality) and a pomologist/co-owner of McDougal Orchards in Springvale. I am the primary applicator of pesticides at our conventional farm and supervise/direct other applications.

The proposal as it now stands changes detection threshold for what constitutes a drift violation. The new proposal suggests that any detection of residue in an off-target sensitive area would by itself be indication of a violation. My worst case scenario would be the perfectly calm 3 AM spray along the perimeter row of apple trees within 100 ft of a public way. I fail to see a car traveling on the road who then claims to be sensitive when he stops with a few random green (copper), white (kaolin clay), or greasy (spray oil) spots on the car. The road wasn't sensitive nor were the abutting land owners... but the car driver claims to be when he comes back with an attorney.

The current threshold is finding 20% of residue level in sprayed area in an off-target sensitive sprayed area. Being over that threshold is considered evidence for drift, but not necessarily a violation until other information is collected. Two chemical residue samples are required. With a zero allowable threshold, any detection like the spots on the passing car above in the example is still a detection and therefore a possible pending lawsuit. And the technology is available from Lab Safety Supply and others to detect extremely minute amounts. And that technology will continue to advance. Will I have folks hanging sensitive test paper or monitoring devices at the edge of my fields?

I recommend:

1. Change the new rules so that detection of off-target residue in a sensitive area is treated as evidence that further investigation is called for, but not by itself qualify as indication that a drift violation has occurred.
2. Set a floor or base threshold level and establish a detection methodology. The actual level would have to be discussed, but the point is to set a realistic scientifically based floor to prevent some current or future detection method, or the few spots on a passing

car, from being counted as legally equivalent to a serious case of drift.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

Evan R. McDougal
McDougal Orchards
201 Hanson Ridge Road
Springvale, Maine 04083

207 324-5054

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy Gregoire [mailto:tgregoire@suscom-maine.net]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 3:49 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: tgregoire@gwi.net

Dear Mr. Henry Jennings and the Board of Pesticides Control,

Thank you for all your work on the Rules Regulating Pesticides Drift and Aerial Spraying. I am writing to ask you to protect our health from exposure to pesticides, and also writing on behalf of my local organic farmers. Please note the points below:

1. We have a much better and more inclusive definition of sensitive areas, we are encouraging neighbors to communicate with each other, we are requiring detailed site plans before pesticide applications take place, and we are expanding the distance within which public citizens have access to information. Please keep these important aspects of the proposed rules.
2. Thank you for including a a buffer zone of protection. However, the current proposed 200 feet is not enough.
3. Please address the missing clauses of the original drift management plan language.

Thank you again for your service and your attention to this important issue. Please expand the protections to safeguard Mainers health.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gregoire
59 Ward Road
Topsham, ME 04086

-----Original Message-----

From: Mirabile, Gerry J. [mailto:Gerry.Mirabile@cmpco.com]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 3:33 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Cc: Davis, Weston J.; Koster, Roy A.

Subject: CMP Comments on Proposed Amendments to Board of Pesticides Control Regulations Chapters 10, 22 & 28

Dear Henry:

CMP respectfully submits the following comments to the Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) on its proposed amendments to BPC Regulations Chapters 10, 22 & 28:

Chapter 10

1. BPC proposes a significant redefinition of "Sensitive area" (Section 2.BBB.). Draft amendments would delete the qualifier that sensitive areas are areas within 100 feet of sensitive area structures such as homes, schools, and commercial buildings. In its place, Sensitive area would be more broadly defined to include these same sensitive area structures as well as any associated maintained areas (e.g., lawns, gardens, recreational areas, livestock areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, parking areas), regardless of the distance these maintained areas extend from their associated sensitive area structures. For example, a school may include associated maintained playgrounds and athletic fields that extend 1,000 feet or more from the school building itself. This would significantly expand the jurisdiction of these rules beyond their current scope.

CMP questions what information or evidence BPC has that 100 feet is an inadequate buffer for these sensitive area structures. CMP is unaware of the reason for expansion of the Sensitive area from 100 feet to an undefined (and in many cases much larger) distance from sensitive area structures. Based on the methods of herbicide application CMP employs (inward-directed truck-mounted hydraulic applicators at electrical substations), CMP does not believe drift extends more than a few feet beyond its spray targets.

2. BPC also proposes to include in the definition of Sensitive area, public roads and other areas where there is "... evidence or a reasonable likelihood that people will be present when spraying will occur". (Section 2.BBB.8.v.). CMP believes this specific category of "Sensitive Area Likely to Be Occupied" is inadequately defined, overly broad, and subjective, and may be interpreted to include many areas where little or no human exposure risk exists. For example, public roads may be occupied by cars at any hour of any day; does this qualify as people being present? If cars are present, must people be outside of their vehicles on public roads to be "present"?

CMP owns and operates approximately 230 electrical substations throughout its central and southern Maine service area. The expansion of the Sensitive area definition to include public roads will also require CMP to develop and annually update site maps (see comments below) of nearly all of its substations given that each is accessed by, and/or near, a public road.

Chapter 22

1. BPC proposes that site maps be prepared for all Sensitive Areas within 500 feet of the target area, and that these be updated annually (Section 2.C.). As noted above, this will require CMP to prepare and annually update approximately 230 site plans for each of its substations, including information on the existence, type, and

location of all sensitive areas within *at least* 500 feet; because of the proposed broader redefinition of Sensitive area, this requirement will in many cases require mapping well beyond 500 feet from the substation. In addition, although land use changes typically occur at a modest pace in most of CMP's service area, the annual update requirement represents a significant burden in that it would require annual reconnaissance surveys of large areas around each substation to confirm that no new sensitive areas had established, and that no existing sensitive areas had left or been discontinued.

CMP utilizes truck-mounted hydraulic herbicide application annually at each of its substations. Herbicide is applied in a 3 to 5 foot wide strip immediately outside of substation fences, as well as within the fenced substation yards. All herbicide application outside of the fence is directed inward/toward the substation, thus overspray is minimized. Also, spray originates from a height of 3 to 5 feet (the height applicator nozzle is held above ground), further limiting the potential for, and distance of, any overspray.

Given the very limited potential for off-target overspray of herbicides at CMP substations, as well as the unnecessary and burdensome requirement for site plans and annual updates at all CMP substations, CMP requests that the following exemption be added to Section 1 of Chapter 22:

E. Applications of pesticides at secured electrical substations.

2. Proposed amendments to Section 4.B.II.(i) appear to contradict the General Standard in Section 4.B.I. Existing General Standard language (which is not proposed to be amended) states that pesticide application must be done in a manner that "...minimizes pesticide drift to the maximum extent practicable..." This general standard language allows for some drift, and existing Section 4.B.II.(i) allows for 20% residue levels at off-target sensitive areas. In contrast, the proposed rewording of Section 4.B.II.(i) would disallow *any* detected residue in or on off-target sensitive areas. This no detected residue standard may be unattainable and unrealistic in that it makes no allowance for any drift, and is therefore unreasonable, as well as inconsistent with the General Standard. CMP believes that any standard or limit for off-target drift should be damage-based (i.e., evidence of off-target damage) rather than zero or some other arbitrary residual number.
3. BPC proposed amendments would eliminate existing Section 4. Drift Management Plan. CMP disagrees with this proposed deletion. Development of a Drift Management Plan - whose purpose is to minimize the occurrence and adverse effects of pesticide drift - is entirely consistent with the existing General Standards. In effect, this Plan implements the purposes of the General Standard. Several years ago CMP developed, and has since utilized, a generic (non substation-specific) substation herbicide Drift Management Plan. This plan has been a very effective tool in preventing and minimizing drift from substation herbicide applications. The enforcement flexibility provision in existing Section 4.G. also provides an incentive for CMP (and others) to develop and implement such a plan. CMP suggests that the Drift Management Plan section be retained.

Chapter 28

1. BPC proposes repealing and replacing existing Section 1.B.1. (Outdoor pesticide application notification procedure). The existing language in section 1.B.1. is reasonable and flexible in that it requires general notification to be given within 1 week after request for notification is received, and at least 1 day before pesticide application is to occur. In contrast, proposed new language in revised Section 1.B.2. would require notification of pesticide application at least 24 hours, but not more than 7 days, prior to the planned application time. This would cause a hardship to CMP by requiring one or more followup notifications when planned herbicide application is postponed by several days or more due to weather conditions, which is a common occurrence. To account for the likelihood of postponed applications while still providing reasonable advance notice, CMP requests that proposed replacement Section 1.B.2. be amended to read:

"Once a request for notification has been made...the person receiving the request shall notify the neighbor at least 24 hours, but not more than **30** days, prior to the planned application time."

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please call or email Wes Davis (623-3521 extension 2945, Weston.davis@cmpco.com) or me (626-9557, gerry.mirabile@cmpco.com) if you would like to discuss these

comments or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gerry J. Mirabile
Lead Analyst – Compliance
Central Maine Power Company
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, ME 04336
207-626-9557
(fax) 207-626-4044
Email: gerry.mirabile@cmpco.com

-----Original Message-----

From: jody spear [mailto:jodyspear@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 11:43 AM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: pesticide drift rule revisions / enclosures to follow by USPS

To: Pesticide Control Board

Fr: Jody Spear, for Sierra Club Maine Chapter

RE: Chapter 22

Thank you for acknowledging the need for establishing buffer zones around sensitive areas. Unfortunately, 200 feet is not a meaningful setback to protect against off-target drift.

Commercial growers always show up en masse at hearings and complain that the system works fine as it is, that safety precautions are unreasonable, that there exists no hard science to prove harm from chemicals applied to kill insects and weeds, and that "those who believe they are harmed [are ruled by emotion]." Hyperbolic assertions such as these, utterly unfounded, are nothing if not emotional outbursts, venting of frustration at being pressured to conform to precautionary standards such as are being instituted in other parts of the country. I concur with MOFGA's recommendation for a minimum quarter-mile setback, as California has mandated.

I object also to language enabling persons to be exempt from drift rules if their neighbors don't mind being sprayed. This is a joke, right? That anyone would claim to "not want to be bothered" with being notified, as Paul Sweetland says, shows how great is the need for public education about the hazards of pesticide spraying. If such persons are ignorant of chemicals' modes of action -- specific effects of insecticides and herbicides on humans, domestic animals, livestock, wildlife, and plants, and to water and soil -- advance warning of applications and safety-data information is especially crucial. Violations of federal laws in force to protect from chemical trespass should not be encouraged.

Until we have truly precautionary principles in effect, applicators should be held to the existing principles of IPM, which mandate using the smallest quantities of pesticides to be effective.

The standard of harm to trigger enforcement action should apply to all spray cases, not just those involving SALOs (crop damage from pesticide drift onto a conventional farm should be addressed according to the same standard of harm that applies to sensitive areas).

Principles for reducing off-target drift should govern high-powered ground application as well as aerial application. As David Bell said at the hearing last month, "some ground application causes as much drift as aerial [and] the rule shouldn't imply a significant difference between the two."

RE: Chapter 28

Posting of signs near trails and other sensitive areas occupied sporadically is an urgent priority. Growers don't

12/9/2008

been a state parks employee, a Superfund site manager, a Medomak Valley Land Trustee, and recipient of an environmental-excellence award. Yet, although he claims to know the effects of agricultural chemicals on human health, he will not acknowledge the well-established scientific basis for stringent regulation. A blueberry grower, he would like to expand his acreage, using pesticides, on state park land in Camden without observing notification and setback requirements for trails used by hikers. How is it even possible for commercial growers to use state park land, putting hikers at risk? If chemicalized agriculture is not prohibited outright on public land, it should be. [From attached note: Henry—Could you please clarify this last point, please? Thx, J.S.]

ORGANOPHOSPHATE PESTICIDES & CHILD HEALTH:

A Primer for Health Care Providers



CHRONIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The long-term consequences of acute organophosphate (OP) poisoning are better understood for adults than children. Memory and attention deficits, as well as increased depression, anxiety and irritability are reported following adult OP poisoning¹⁵. Because the nervous system is still developing in childhood, children are believed to be at increased risk for long-term sequelae following both acute and chronic organophosphate exposure.

At a follow-up appointment one month later, José and Rosa report that Isabella has been well. However, they are still worried that there may be some longstanding damage done to their daughter. They have heard from other workers that pesticides can have effects that develop later, like attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and cancer.

What are the sequelae of acute organophosphate poisoning?

What is the evidence for chronic health effects in children exposed to pesticides?

CHRONIC SEQUELAE OF ACUTE POISONING

Several studies describe long term neurological sequelae in adults who have experienced acute organophosphate poisoning. As such, there is reason to suspect that childhood OP poisoning can result in long-term health consequences. To date, there is minimal epidemiologic data in children to support or refute such a claim.

A recently published study¹⁶ investigated whether acute OP poisoning in early childhood is associated with behavior and learning deficits later in life. The study found small, but statistically significant, motor impairments in 9-10 year old school children who had been poisoned by OP pesticides at the age of 2 years. This study is one of the first to investigate the sequelae that follows the disruption of the cholinergic system in early life. Given the cognitive and behavioral impairments seen in adult studies following acute

OP poisoning^{15, 17} the potential for memory, learning, and attention deficits in children needs further exploration.

You contact your local [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit \(PEHSU\)](#) and they help you review the scientific evidence regarding the association between OP poisoning and long-term sequelae in children. You determine that neurological sequelae are possible but not certain, and discern that the likelihood of other health sequelae (such as cancer) is much less certain. You discuss this information with José and Rosa and make a plan to closely follow Isabella's neurodevelopmental progress during her well-baby visits. You also refer Isabella to your local birth-to-three program for an evaluation. In addition, you plan to address other potential threats to Isabella's neurodevelopment by screening her for lead poisoning and anemia. Finally, you discuss things that José and Rosa can do to promote Isabella's healthy growth and brain development, such as ensuring good nutrition and reading to Isabella.

MECHANISMS OF CHRONIC TOXICITY

We have already discussed how childhood behavior and physiology results in elevated exposure to pesticides in children. Due to the fact that their organ system are still developing and growing, the mechanism of chronic organophosphate toxicity has similarities and differences to that experienced by adults. Understanding the similarities and differences clarifies why chronic OP exposure may result in a wider range of illness or developmental deficits in children as compared to adults.

Chronic exposure to organophosphates during development causes toxicity via 3 distinct pathways. First, chronic over-stimulation at cholinergic nerve terminals results in neuronal damage in a mechanism similar to that seen in acute OP toxicity. Distinct from this mechanism, organophosphates disrupt developmental signaling and patterning via cholinergic-dependent and cholinergic-independent mechanisms.

As these data evolve, evidence of childhood susceptibility to OP pesticides has driven the review of [regulatory measures that establish "safe" levels of organophosphate exposure](#). As a result of such regulatory reviews, home use of several OP pesticides, including chlorpyrifos and diazinon, has been phased-out⁵.

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CHRONIC EXPOSURE

A few days after your follow-up appointment with Rosa, José & Isabella, you receive a nervous phone call from Rosa. She wonders if her child will be harmed by mere virtue of the fact that her husband works on a farm and they live near the fields. Can the lower-level exposure of day-to-day life cause permanent harm?

Chronic OP toxicity is characterized by:

- Subtle, often sub-clinical symptoms (compared to acute toxicity)
- Variable time lag between exposure and illness (often not immediate)

Because of these characteristics, connecting illness to chronic pesticide exposure is difficult. Organophosphates are known to act on the nervous system, thus the research to date has largely focused on determining if chronic OP exposures cause neurodevelopmental effects.

Both toxicological evidence (mostly from rodent models) and evidence from observational epidemiological studies support the idea that chronic organophosphate exposure can produce neurodevelopmental deficits.

Recent studies in U.S. populations have linked higher levels of chronic exposure to organophosphate insecticides *in utero* with reduced birth weight, head circumference, and gestational length in infants. In addition, there is emerging evidence of adverse neurodevelopmental effects in more highly exposed infants. These studies have been conducted in both agricultural and inner-city environments, suggesting that both rural and urban settings have potentially dangerous pesticide exposure opportunities. Pediatric asthma, cancer, and birth defects are also a focus of concern, but the data linking such outcomes with exposure are limited (either inadequate or lacking).

Despite our incomplete understanding, the suggestive harm that chronic OP exposure poses to child development merits recommendations to parents to reduce pre- and postnatal exposure to pesticides, particularly OP's.

You acknowledge Rosa's concerns and provide some anticipatory guidance about how to reduce ongoing, potentially problematic pesticide exposures to their baby. You focus on providing ideas that empower the family to lower the para-occupational and spray drift pathways of exposure.

Link Between Pesticides And Parkinson's Strengthened With Family Study

ScienceDaily (Mar. 29, 2008) — For the first time, the association between Parkinson's disease and exposure to pesticides has been shown in patients with the neurological disorder compared with their unaffected relatives, according to a new study. Parkinson's disease is a common neurological disorder affecting about 1 million people in the USA. The disorder typically develops in later life resulting in symptoms such as tremors and muscle rigidity.

Although variations in several genes have been identified that contribute to the disease, these rare genetic defects account for a small proportion of the overall prevalence of the disorder.

The majority of Parkinson's disease cases are thought to be due to an interaction between genetic and environmental factors.

"Previous studies have shown that individuals with Parkinson's disease are over twice as likely to report being exposed to pesticides as unaffected individuals" says the study's lead author, Dana Hancock, "but few studies have looked at this association in people from the same family or have assessed associations between specific classes of pesticides and Parkinson's disease."

The study of related individuals who share environmental and genetic backgrounds that might contribute to Parkinson's disease enables researchers to identify specific differences in exposures between individuals with and without the disease. The research team from Duke University Medical Center (Durham, NC) and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Morris K. Udall Parkinson Disease Research Center of Excellence (Miami, FL, USA) recruited 319 patients and over 200 relatives. They used telephone interviews to obtain histories of pesticide exposure, living or working on a farm, and well-water drinking.

The authors detected an association between pesticide use and Parkinson's disease. Among these, the strongest were between the disorder and use of herbicides and insecticides, such as organochlorides and organophosphates. No association was found between Parkinson's disease and well-water drinking or living or working on a farm, which are two commonly used proxies for pesticide exposures.

Many studies have supported pesticides as a risk factor for PD, but "biological evidence is presently insufficient to conclude that pesticide exposure causes PD", says Hancock. "Further investigation of these specific pesticides and others may lead to identification of pertinent biological pathways influencing PD development." In addition future genetic studies of Parkinson's disease should consider the influence of pesticides, since exposure to pesticides may provide a trigger for the disease in genetically predisposed individuals.

Journal reference: Dana B Hancock, Eden R Martin, Gregory M Mayhew, Jeffrey M Stajich, Rita Jewett, Mark A Stacy, Burton L Scott, Jeffery M Vance and William K Scott. Pesticide exposure and risk of Parkinson's disease: a family-based case-control study. BMC Neurology (in press)

Adapted from materials provided by [BioMed Central/BMC Neurology](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.

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<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080328070136.htm>

12/9/2008

☒ APA

☐ MLA

BioMed Central/BMC Neurology (2008, March 29). Link Between Pesticides And Parkinson's Strengthened With Family Study. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved December 9, 2008, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080328070136.htm>

Beyond Pesticides Daily News Blog—4/8/08

Motor Neuron Disease Linked to Gene-Environment Interactions

(*Beyond Pesticides*, April 8, 2008) A team of University of Michigan scientists discover interactions between genes and organophosphate exposure cause some forms of motor neuron disease (MND). [The study](#), which appears in the March issue of the American Journal of Human Genetics, shows the mutations in one key gene (neuropathy target esterase, or NTE) that causes a previously unknown type of inherited MND. The scientists also find the mutations caused changes in a protein already known to be involved when people develop neurologic disorders as a result of exposure to toxic organophosphate chemicals commonly used in solvents and insecticides and also as “nerve gas” agents.

Motor neuron disease is a rare, devastating illness in which nerve cells that carry brain signals to muscles gradually deteriorate. One form of it is Lou Gehrig’s disease or ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). For most MND patients, the cause is unknown. Figuring out why these people develop the disease, which causes muscles to weaken, atrophy and cease to function, is an important step in developing therapies to treat or prevent motor neuron disease. Motor neuron disease affects five per 100,000 people.

“Our findings support the possibility that toxic organophosphates contribute to motor neuron disease in genetically vulnerable people,” says John K. Fink, M.D., professor of neurology at the U-M Medical School and senior author of the study. He believes the results suggest that altered activity of the gene found in patients in the study may also contribute to other motor neuron disorders, possibly including ALS. The findings are an exciting first step in uncovering a possible link between the environment and motor neuron disease, says Shirley Rainier, a research assistant professor at the U-M Department of Neurology and the first author of the study. “Why does one person in a family get it, and another doesn’t?”

Dr. Fink examined members of two families who had progressive weakness and tightness in their legs, as well as muscle atrophy in their hands, shins and feet. James Albers, M.D., Ph.D., a U-M professor of neurology and an expert in neuromuscular disorders, studied nerve and motor function. Dr. Rainier performed genetic studies and determined that the gene for the condition was on a region of chromosome 19. Mark Leppert, Ph.D., co-chair of human genetics at the University of Utah, and his team performed genetic analysis that confirmed this location and excluded other areas in the genome. Among the many genes in this region of chromosome 19, one gene stood out as particularly likely: the gene that encodes for NTE. Because of its known role in organophosphate-induced neurological disease, the NTE gene was considered an important candidate gene and was studied immediately.

Analysis showed that the affected people in each family had NTE gene mutations. These mutations altered a critical part of the NTE protein called the esterase domain. Dr. Fink has named the inherited condition “NTE motor neuron disease.” It begins in childhood and progresses slowly, with symptoms of weakness and spasticity in the legs and muscle atrophy in the hands and lower legs.

Next, Dr. Fink and his team want to learn if mutations in the NTE gene happen in other types of motor neuron disease such as ALS, and if the mutations make a person more vulnerable to neurological damage from organophosphate exposure. Dr. Fink’s lab is currently using fruit flies as a model to study the NTE mutations, with the goal of finding treatments for people with motor neuron disease.



Safety first for pesticides

The Environment Committee voted on Wednesday on new legislation governing the production, licensing and use of pesticides. MEPs confirmed that certain toxic chemicals will be banned, except where there is a serious danger to plant health. They also argued that the EU should not be divided into three pesticide licensing zones. In addition, Member States will have to meet quantitative targets for reducing the volume of pesticides used.

The committee was voting on two second-reading recommendations. Following compromises between the political groups, the committee adopted both reports by large majorities. Negotiations will take place with Council on a number of points before the plenary vote in Parliament in December or January.

No to dangerous chemicals in pesticides

The report by Hiltrud Breyer (Greens/EFA, DE) on the regulation on the authorisation of plant protection products was adopted by 39 votes to 20 with 6 abstentions. Under this regulation a positive list of approved "active substances" (the chemical ingredients of pesticides) is to be drawn up at EU level. Pesticides will then be licensed at national level on the basis of this list.

Highly toxic chemicals banned

The committee confirmed Parliament's wish to ban certain highly toxic chemicals, namely those which are endocrine-disrupting (i.e. which affect hormones), genotoxic, carcinogenic or toxic to reproduction. It added developmental neurotoxic and immunotoxic substances to the banned list where they pose a significant risk. However, if a substance is needed to combat a serious danger to plant health, it may be approved for up to four years even if it does not meet these safety criteria.

The European Commission has rejected widely publicised claims that the tough new rules on pesticides would cause a large number of pesticides to be removed from the market, thereby seriously affecting farmers and food prices. It argues that only 4% of substances would disappear because they are endocrine disruptors and only 2% because they are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction.

Safer alternatives where possible

Chemicals will be approved at EU level for differing periods of time, depending on their toxicity. Products containing certain hazardous substances ("candidates for substitution") are to be replaced if safer alternatives are shown to exist. MEPs voted to speed up this process, cutting the maximum replacement deadline from five years to two. The overall aim is to encourage the use of the less toxic substances or of non-chemical alternatives.

MEPs stand firm against a three-zone EU

For the purpose of licensing pesticide products, the Commission and Council wish to divide the EU into three zones (north, centre and south), with mutual recognition by Member States within each zone. MEPs rejected this idea, as they had at first reading, opting instead for a single EU-wide zone, although individual States would be allowed to ban pesticides if they can substantiate their case, for example on grounds of local environmental conditions.

Ambitious targets for reducing pesticide use

The report by Christa Kläß (EPP-ED, DE) on the directive on the sustainable use of pesticides was adopted by 58 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

MEPs adopted a crucial compromise amendment stating that National Action Plans for reducing the volume of pesticides used should include quantitative targets. For "active substances of very high concern" and those classified as "toxic or very toxic", the target will be "a minimum 50% reduction".

Crop spraying, rivers, lakes and parks

The directive already states that aerial crop spraying will in general be banned, albeit with exceptions subject to approval by the authorities. The Council wants to allow Member States to lay down that if the authorities do not respond within a set time to an application to spray, the application is deemed approved ("tacit consent"). The Environment Committee today rejected this idea by a narrow majority. It also decided that Member States may demand that neighbours be informed in advance if spraying is to take place.

To protect bodies of water from pesticides, the Council believes Member States should simply take "appropriate measures". MEPs today restored their first-reading demand for "buffer zones" around water courses and even tougher measures where drinking water sources are concerned. They add that Member States would be allowed to establish pesticide-free zones that cover the entire Member State.

Lastly, regarding areas where pesticide use must be kept to a minimum, such as parks and playgrounds, the committee reinstated the EP's demand for public healthcare facilities such as hospitals to be included and for "substantial no-spray zones" to be established around all these protected areas.

Contact :

Jack Blackwell

Press service

E-mail: envi-press@europarl.europa.eu

BXL: (32-2) 28 42929

PORT: (32) 0498.983.400

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

Dean + Pat Dell
Seventree View Farm
Warren, Me

-----Original Message-----

From: Stevesutterfarm@aol.com [mailto:Stevesutterfarm@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 12:16 PM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Comment Proposed Rules

Mr. Jennings,

This is to express full support of the proposed changes to Chapters 10, 22, and 28. In my judgement, any additional administrative burden placed on applicators would be minimal. Thank you for this opportunity.

Steve Sutter
Presque Isle

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Elliot, Bill

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 9:37 AM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Proposed Changes to Regulations Governing Pesticide Drift and Aerial Spraying

Dear Mr. Jennings:

Existing regulations governing the application of pesticides appear to provide excellent protection. Coupled with oversight in the form of enforcement and education from your agency, pesticides are applied in an ever increasingly competent manner. The impact of draconian rules governing application will have a devastating impact on agriculture. My efforts to control exotic invasive plants will be severely hampered because of notification requirements and weather conditions. I can envision applicators spraying in weather conditions that are unfavorable because the notification process makes it easier to apply pesticides on the predetermined date than it would be to go through the notification process again.

Bill Elliot, Park Manager

Camden Hills State Park

280 Belfast Road

Camden, Maine 04843

Office: (207) 236-0849

Contact Station: (207)236-3109

Pager (207) 818-2472

R.T.ALLEN & SONS, INC.
PO BOX 356 UNION, MAINE 04862
TEL: 207-785-2282
FAX: 207-785-2080

DATE 12/8/2008

TO Dr Carol Eckert
FROM Gordon Colby

PAGES 40 INCLUDING COVER PAGE

REMARKS: These letters are from growers and neighbors of growers. I hope that you will consider them individually even though they are generally form letters. With the limited time that we had available it was impossible for me to explain the numerous and complicated rate changes to all 75 of my growers to say nothing of their neighbors who have even less knowledge concerning these issues. My own letter will follow before the cut-off date.


Thank You

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

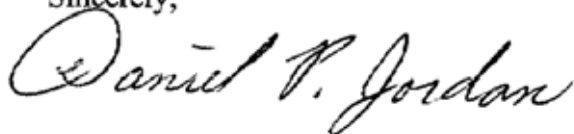

Steven A. Houston

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. Jordan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

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Sincerely,

Lewie B. Peterson

Rec. 22 ^{MA}

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilkinson
Holly Wilkinson

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

George W. Hill
Edith M. Hill

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

Patricia Butler

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

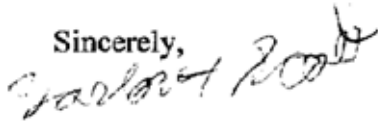
Edwin E. Kihlala

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert 2008", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Larry G. Scott
391 Goshen Road
Waldoboro, Maine
04572
Nov.28, 2008

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

I am a 4th generation blueberry grower. It has come to my attention about possible rule changes being considered, regarding pesticide spraying and sensitive areas.

I believe that if these changes are implemented, they could have a damaging effect on the blueberry industry. As a small grower (90 acres), there are times when I apply certain pesticides myself and other pesticides are done by our processor (RT Allen & Sons). I feel that we use Best Management Practices and supply the public with a safe and healthy product.

As you know, over the years, pesticide use has been improving. For instance, we no longer have the whole field sprayed yearly for the fruit fly, but instead monitor, for the flies and if needed, use a perimeter spray. The proposed regulations could adversely affect this.

I feel that the current rules are sufficient. I hope you will consider the small grower before you make any decisions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Larry G. Scott

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stan Karp".

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

As a blueberry grower I am greatly concerned about the rule changes being considered by the Pesticide Board.

I believe that the changes being considered would adversely affect the blueberry industry as a whole and would put some small growers out of business due to the inability to treat our land properly. We feel that we not only provide a product that consumers desire because of its health benefits but that we have a good relationship with our neighbors and have developed a trust with them over the years through direct communication and using good Integrated Management Practices. We believe that penalizing blueberry growers through rule changes that are driven by groups of people or individuals that have limited understanding and perceptions concerning pesticide use is not in the best interests of anyone. We may have to use more pesticides to overcome problems created by these rule changes and in some cases stop farming our land. Hopefully, this is not the intention of the Board.


Sincerely, *James + Mary Mc Intyre* landowner,

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,



Nov 18 08 01:37p AUF

2077852080


p.3

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

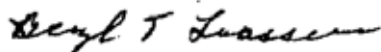
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Sincerely,



Thomas G. Levasseur



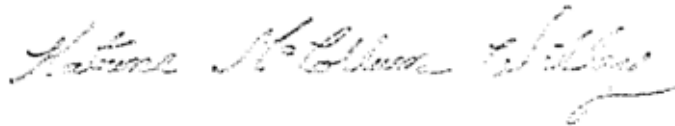
Beryl T. Levasseur

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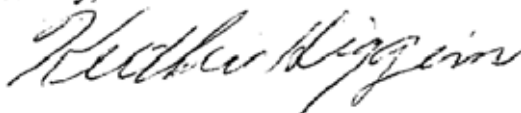
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert McEllis".

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Sincerely,

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Sincerely,

David Boltfield
Karen Seidel, CO

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Sincerely,

B-E. Q. 11
Bruce D. Relea

Howard S. Brower
P.O. Box 242
Woods End Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
1-781-259-9124

November 21, 2008


Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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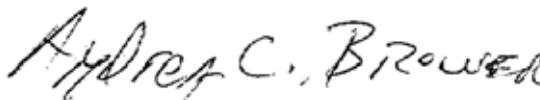
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Sincerely,

Howard S. Brower



Andrea C. Brower



Ms. Mary Ford
103 Spring St.
Cambridge, MA 02141-1726

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

Liberty Maine
Mary Ford - May 2005 - 005-840-41
103 Spring St
Cambridge Mass
02141
Tel # 617-864-5224

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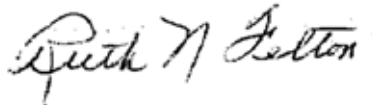
Frances Hodsdon

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Sincerely,



1.
November 24, 2008

To whom it may Concern;

We are all concerned that we use pesticides only as necessary.

Through the years things have changed alot. When years ago, we used very strong pesticides for example "Arsenic" and if it rained within 24 hours we had to do it again. This was to control maggot flies.

The companies are working to improve things and limit the use of pesticides whenever possible.

We would be in hard straits if we put all the work you need to raise blueberries, and then not be able to use pesticides when needed. This is a good part of our living. If you have lived on Social Security yet, you know that is not enough to live on. We would need to sell land to live if the restrictions got to the point we couldn't raise saleable blueberries.

It would be heart breaking to have to sell to a developer our blueberry fields, so we could have money enough to live on.

Please consider the "Growers of Blueberries" carefully before putting us out of business.

2.

Blueberries are a healthy food, one of the best. Let us continue to produce a good product and let the people who know the business use their good judgement in the control of pesticides.

Edwin & Marie Kohtala

Blueberry growers for more than 50 years.

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

HARRY J. PRAGL

Harry J. Pragl
11-23-08

FINNTOWN RD
WALDOBORO, ME

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

Robert W. Hall President of
Hall's Wild blueberries, Inc.

With the State's economy in a freefall why
would anyone want to make it harder for
those trying to inject money into this
economy.

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

Carle G. Gray



Mr. Carle G. Gray
1922 US Hwy. 1
Sullivan, ME 04664

12-4-08

Dear Board:

With the decline in manufacturing, Maine's economy is more than ever dependent on its natural resource-based industries: Farming, fishing and forestry. I know of no compelling need to impose any new, or more restrictive regulations on any of those industries, of which blueberry growing is an important element. "Do no harm" to

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Sincerely,

Acelia Sahulka
Joseph E Sahulka, Jr

We are small growers and the proposed changes would force us out of business. Our own home has been surrounded by blueberry fields with no problems for over seventy years.

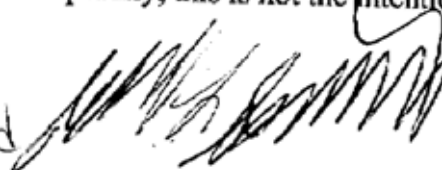
November 21, 2008

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Sincerely,

Joanne Funk-Geddes and 

We have a small field and could not be able to harvest berries with these regulations. We are both retirees and the small profit we make from the field is an important part of our income. Blueberry farming has been an integral part of Maine life for centuries. It seems unfair that an environmental lobby can come in and regulate production that would put us and many like us out of business. Please look at the blueberry industry's history!

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. J. Lintz", written over a horizontal line.

An Unintentional consequence For my situation would be increased real estate tax and loss of farm income, due to layout of my land. If this becomes the case I most likely would have to subdivide + sell the land, develop it, or let it grow into scrub. In either case A very scenic piece of the maine landscape would be lost. I don't think the people who stroll by and are in awe at the fall color of vines realize the effort that goes into providing that scenery for them.

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

We / I are a neighbor of a blueberry grower. We / I understand that the Maine Board of Pesticide Control (BPC) is proposing new rules that will reduce the flexibility of pest, weed, and disease control for wild blueberry growers / land managers. We / I appreciate the work that wild blueberry growers do and we / I think the current rules have been working well in our area.

We / I also understand that the rule changes propose decreasing the area where pesticides are allowed to be used, but can result in an increase in the use of pesticides. The proposed rules also take the decisions about land management out of the hands of the growers and base standards of risk on public opinion and the type of application used rather than science and technical knowledge.

No spray zones that are also proposed when applications are made by air can result in increasing the use of applications used on the ground. Using ground methods can often be unavailable if land is hilly or rocky. If the rules change to include zero tolerance of any pesticide residue then most, if not all applications that control pests, disease, and weeds, would be potential violations. This is not a fair purpose of rules and regulations.

We / I have concerns that the rule changes are motivated by groups and individuals that don't understand pesticide use and have inaccurate perceptions about how wild blueberry land is managed. If passed as proposed these rule changes will greatly limit the ability of my / our wild blueberry grower neighbors to manage their land effectively.

If the Board has the perception that wild blueberry land management practices have a negative impact on neighbors regularly then they may want to find out more before they act to change the rules. Wild blueberry landowners provide many benefits to neighbors such as open space and access and safe quality food.

Thank you for doing a good job.

Sincerely, *James + Mary McInyre Landowner,*

*We all need the pesticide for the
Blueberry to keep the weeds + bugs off,
we want to the Blueberries Co going so
we need the income going for people,
They also do a good job for
everyone also. We Thank you very much,*

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Thank you for doing a good job.

Sincerely,

Joan Howard
State of Vermont
Rob P. Howard

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Sincerely,

Edwin =b K. J. Lalo

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Thank you for doing a good job.

Sincerely,

Bob Hall



Lawrence S. Siegler
(Vienna)
Horticulture

HARRY PRAGL
PO BOX 154
175 STAFFORD ST.
STAFFORDVILLE, CT.
06077

Gordon,

Good luck in your efforts to stop
any new regulations on applying seat controls.

I'm sure my neighbors don't have any
issues with current regulation and practices,
however, I live in Connecticut and unfortunately
was not able to talk to my neighbor or have
them sign the letter. Sorry.

Please advise if there is anything else I can do to assist
you with this issue.

Sincerely,

Harry Pragl
11-23-08

Friday 11-28-08

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

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Thank you for doing a good job.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Sherlin
256 Blinn Hill Rd.
President 04342

Howard S. Brower
P.O. Box 242
Woods End Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773

November 21, 2008

1-781-259-9124

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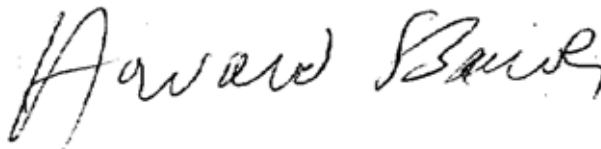
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Sincerely,

Howard S. Brower



Andrea C. Brower



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We / I have concerns that the rule changes are motivated by groups and individuals that don't understand pesticide use and have inaccurate perceptions about how wild blueberry land is managed. If passed as proposed these rule changes will greatly limit the ability of my / our wild blueberry grower neighbors to manage their land effectively.

If the Board has the perception that wild blueberry land management practices have a negative impact on neighbors regularly then they may want to find out more before they act to change the rules. Wild blueberry landowners provide many benefits to neighbors such as open space and access and safe quality food.

Thank you for doing a good job.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Hordem, NOV 23, 2008

Maine Board of Pesticide Control,

We / I are a neighbor of a blueberry grower. We / I understand that the Maine Board of Pesticide Control (BPC) is proposing new rules that will reduce the flexibility of pest, weed, and disease control for wild blueberry growers / land managers. We / I appreciate the work that wild blueberry growers do and we / I think the current rules have been working well in our area.

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Sincerely,

Lauren J. Nishey
Ava A. Jackson
Ronald A. Rainette
Virginia Whitman
Philip Whitman

12/7/08

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Sincerely,

Joe W. Cowing Sr.
Donna M. Cowing